

## CLAIMS

1           1. A method for automatically upgrading software on a device, the device  
2 having a processor, and memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory stores the  
3 software, and wherein the device is an automated data collection device, the method  
4 comprising:

5                 coupling the device to a server having an upgrade utility and upgrade software  
6 stored thereat;

7                 providing data communication between the device and the server, and the  
8 upgrade utility determining a configuration or status of the device; and

9                 upgrading the software of the device by adding additional software to the  
10 device.

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